



LOS ANGELES REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

LOS ANGELES REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

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- LOS ANGELES REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD (REGION 4)

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WHERE IS THE LOS ANGELES REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD?

With 10 million residents, the Los Angeles Region is the most densely populated Region in the state. It encompasses all the coastal watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, along with portions of Kern and Santa Barbara Counties. Land use varies considerably. In Ventura County, agriculture and open space exist alongside urban, residential and commercial areas. In northern Los Angeles County, open space is steadily being transformed into residential communities.

In southern Los Angeles County, land uses include urban, residential, commercial and industrial.

KEY ISSUES IN REGION 4

The activities of the Enforcement and Special Projects Unit, coupled with a strong enforcement effort, have been a primary focus of the Regional Board.

In preparing its Water Quality Assessment Report, Board staff determined that 166 surface water bodies are impaired. Each impaired water body must have a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) developed to address the impairment. The staff also assisted in creating a multi-agency Contaminated Sediments Task Force to develop a long-term management plan for dredging and disposing of contaminated sediments. The Regional Board, in cooperation with the United States

Environmental Protection Agency, is supervising the cleanup of the Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE), a gasoline additive responsible for the closure of three-quarters of the city of Santa Monica's water supply wells.

The Regional Board continues to implement its Watershed Management Initiative (WMI) for the Upper San Gabriel River. This "holistic" approach brings together all watershed stakeholders with the aim of cooperatively managing all potential point and non-point pollution sources. Stormwater and urban runoff are regulated by three discharge permits covering the 95 cities and two counties within the Los Angeles Region.

PRIORITIES

The Regional Board is a member of the Beach Water Quality Workgroup, an ad hoc committee composed of groups responsible for the protection and reporting of beach water quality in Southern California. The State Board, in cooperation with local agencies, developed a beach closure warnings database.

The Workgroup has developed a model monitoring program for coastal water bacteria.

The State and Regional Boards developed and are operating a new Sanitary Sewer Overflow and Spill Management System that reports progress in reducing spills, and identifies agencies and geographic areas with chronic spill problems.





The Regional Board's Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan requires that the first three-quarters of an inch of rainfall runoff be captured and treated. Design standards in the plan for specific new developments will ensure that storm water runoff is treated to the maximum extent practicable.

The Regional Board is considering three TMDLs during the first half of 2001: trash/ litter in the Los Angeles River; Chlorides in Calleguas Creek; and trash/litter in Ballona Creek.

The Regional Board participates in numerous public meetings and conducts workshops on hexavalent chromium contamination. The Regional Board is investigating more than 160 suspected hexavalent chromium sites.

WATER DATA

- 4,447 square miles of land, including offshore islands
- 1,115 miles of streams
- 12,107 acres of lakes
- 120 miles of coastline

